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STREETVIBES

ADVOCATING JUSTICE • BUILDING COMMUNITY

\$150
DONATION

THE EMERY: A PLACE WITH PERFECT PITCH

PAGE 3



PEACE, LOVE, GAZA
PAGE 14



WHAT IS AN "URBAN
PIONEER"?
PAGE 4



HOMELESS PEOPLE,
HOMELESS PETS
PAGE 5



CRISIS PUSHES WOMEN
INTO PROSTITUTION
PAGE 9



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From the Director: We Ask For Your Support!

Everyone has an ability to contribute

JOSH SPRING
Executive Director

We ask for your support. We desire that you join. A Coalition is People. We are a large group of people that believe homelessness must end and we continue to struggle for its end. Our goal is to make the word "homeless" a word of the past; something only relative to history books. A word that's only meaning is to warn of what not to repeat. We believe this can happen and we are committed to working for its end until it comes, at which point we will continue to work for the prevention of homelessness.

In this struggle we need all kinds

of strengths and abilities People must employ in the Movement. We ask you to take part and join in.

Some of us can speak to groups; some of us can write our beliefs; some can lead marches; some can inspire others; some can give financially; some can volunteer to file papers; some can make videos; some can take pictures; some can do research; some can listen well; some can attend meetings. The list goes on. Everyone has something very important to offer.

In this editorial, I choose to hone in on one opportunity to join that we don't often talk about at the Coalition- financially. We are an organization that works hard to keep money from dictating us- especially when it comes

to who has a home and who does not.

In order to continue this struggle we, as an organization, need financial support. We work hard to cut costs and spend where we need to, but finances are never easy. In order to continue to grow in our strength to fight homelessness and poverty, we need more financial support.

With that said, if you or someone you know are able to join in financially- we ask that you do. Any amount that comes in is substantial to us- because the heart behind contributions speaks volumes to us.

We don't like to talk about our own organizational needs much- but we have to. If you are unable to join us financially- we understand- we consider all forms of joining in as equally important.

Please join in- in any way you are able. If you are able to join in financially please do. Any donation can be mailed to the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition at 117 East 12th Street, Cincinnati, OH, 45202. Donations can also be given online at www.cincihomeless.org.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THIS IMPORTANT "WE"

-Josh Spring, LSU, Executive Director

Coalition Provides Important Services

BILL JOINER
Contributing Writer

Last year when the Homeless Coalition was hoping to get grants to cover the cost of purchasing the building in which we are located, we were very hopeful of a grant from a particular local foundation. But when a letter came from one foundation, it was a turndown because they said they wanted to support direct service rather than advocacy.

As a board member of the Coalition, I was both disappointed and shocked, because although we do a lot of successful advocacy, I believe we also do a great deal of service, some of which admittedly is gathering the right people and organizing to fill a need, but most of it is done directly with and for homeless individuals. And if we did not do it, it simply would not be done. I believe our executive director, Josh Spring, is often too modest and does not advertise what he and other staff do, and so it goes unnoticed. For that reason, I put together a list of the services we have performed in the last year, and that list is presented here.

Unfortunately, we are limited in our capacity by lack of funds, and much of our staff time is spent on raising funds or trying to work without them. We did raise the money to buy our building, but we now have a \$50,000 mortgage hanging over our heads. And although students and faculty from Miami University will contribute their time and some materials for the renovation, other materials need to be purchased, and we have no funds to do so.

We greatly appreciate your support of Streetvibes, which gives income to the vendors, but is a significant net cost to the Coalition. Therefore if you have any ideas for sources of financial support, we would certainly appreciate your input and help.

Thank you for caring.

Bill Joiner
Board Member
Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless

RECENT WORK OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI HOMELESS COALITION

- Stayed connected with 55 member organizations to coordinate services, keep each organization abreast of developments and actively work together to eradicate homelessness.
- Provided information to hundreds of individuals and families experiencing homelessness annually on services available, making contacts as needed.
- Served as mediator for individuals experiencing homelessness as conflicts arise with service providers.
- Organized overall effort to concentrate on and evaluate the rapid increase in family homelessness in the Cincinnati area;

{Continued on page 7}

STREETVIBES!

ADVOCATING JUSTICE, BUILDING COMMUNITY

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STREET NEWS SERVICE



The Emery: A place with perfect pitch

! **JIM LUKEN**
Contributing Writer

You don't need Streetvibes to tell you that Over-the-Rhine is a unique place. Whether you reside within the community north and east of Central Parkway, or work here, or come down to party or for a show, you are no doubt aware that this place—the "other side" of the fence, tracks, street—teams with a special kind of life and energy.

Gentrification has brought many problems to our neighborhood, as well as some promise. Part of that promise has to do with the richness and history that is already here, along these streets, and in these buildings.

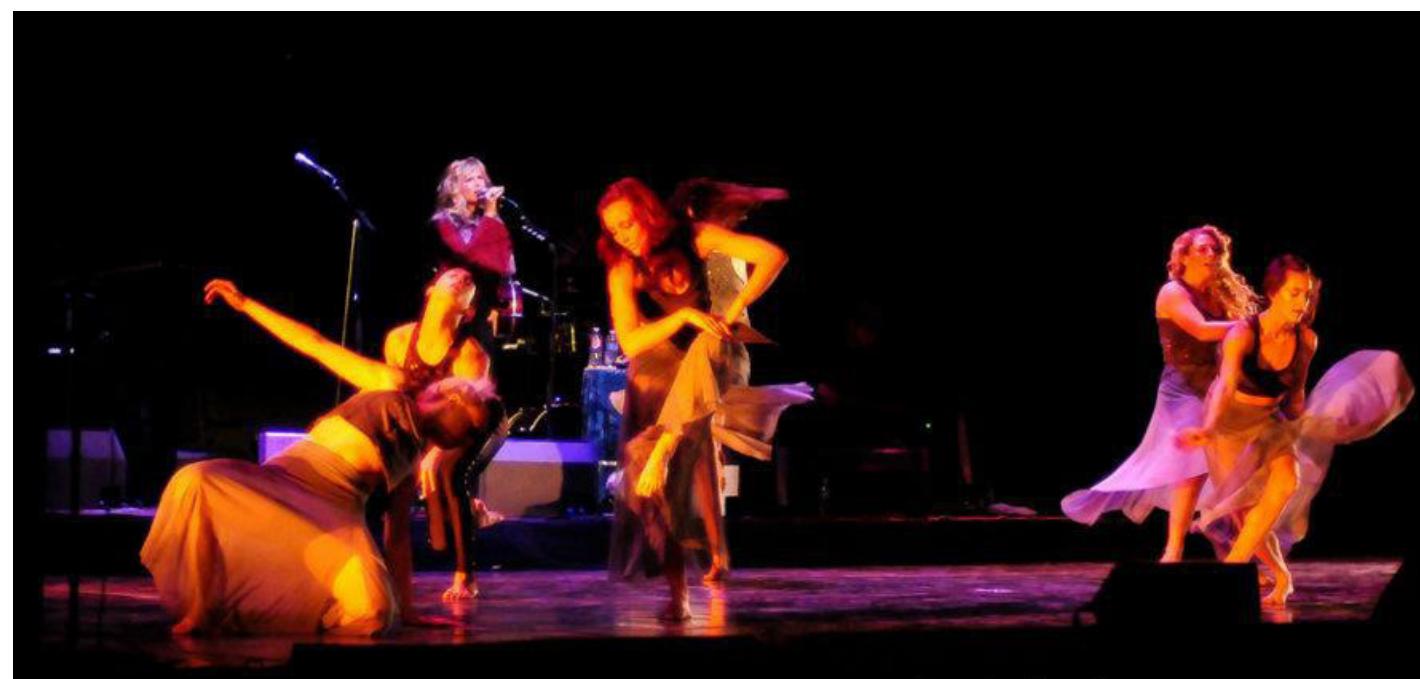
One such OTR building has almost been forgotten of late. The key word is almost. This is the 101 year-old Emery Theater on Walnut Street, around the corner from the Coffee Emporium.

The 1600 seat Emery was the original home of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Najinski danced there. Betty Davis acted. Eleanor Roosevelt spoke. Gershwin played his "Rhapsody in Blue."

If—from the last row of the second balcony of the Emery—you were to watch a play, attend a lecture, or listen to live music, you would hear every stage whisper, every word, or every note as though you were sitting in the first row. This magnificent theater, this gem of over the Rhine, has what is known as "pure" acoustics, like only two other theaters in the US. And like Carnegie Hall, there are no seats with an obstructed view of the stage.

Owned now by the University of Cincinnati, the Emery closed its doors in the mid-'90s, thereafter becoming a victim of neglect and disrepair. But now, thanks to heroic effort being put forth by two entrepreneurial young women, those doors have re-opened. And with any luck, they will remain open...to all of us.

Under the auspices of what they have termed "The Requiem Project," Tara Lindsey Gordon and Tina



Karin Bergquist from Ohio-based band Over the Rhine performs with Exhale Dance Company. Photo: Darrin Ballman.

Manchise spent three years creating a business plan for managing the revival, restoration, and programming of the Emery. In September of 2010, they signed a long term contract with the Emery Center Corporation. "We agreed to do everything," Tara Gordon said to Cincinnati Magazine, "Meaning: maintain it, book it, promote it."

On November 11, 2011, the 100th anniversary of the theater's dedication, the Requiem Project put together a packed-house opening event, featuring, OTR's world famous husband and wife band, Over the Rhine (which got its start at this very theater), as well as CSO musicians, local dancers, and visual artists, all facilitated by some 200 volunteers. Apparently it was quite a show.

In the year since the grand opening, dozens of other artistic and community events have been held at the Emery. Things like: Final Friday, the Cincinnati Film Festival, Mid-Point Music acts, Fringe Festival plays. Even a one act play by the Homeless Coalition's former development director, Katie O'Keefe in collaboration with Starfire U's outreach to disabled young adults.

For Streetvibes readers, the

best part of this story is that Tina Manchise and Tara Gordon share a vision for the theater's revitalization that includes all of the OTR community, including productions and events for those of us downtowners who live on or near the margins, unable to afford (or frequent) the pricey new restaurants, theaters and galleries.

"There will be interesting things happening here at all levels and price-points," says Ms. Manchise. "We believe that meaningful artistic interactions can create community." And both women are clear in stating that this means inclusive community, diverse community.

Gordon and Manchise know the history of this famous building, and they are learning more about that history every day as they push their dream toward realization. They point out that prominent Cincinnati Mary Emery had the theater built to honor her husband Thomas, who—while a prominent businessman—was an active abolitionist. In Mrs. Emery's "iron-clad will," she demanded

as a fundraiser to fight poverty. The women had phoned the Homeless Coalition and asked for volunteers to help clean parts of the building in preparation for the show. "Two people showed up," Manchise laughs. "Me and James Brown."

She showed James the huge cleaning project she had in mind. "You've got the right guy," Brown responded. And he was.

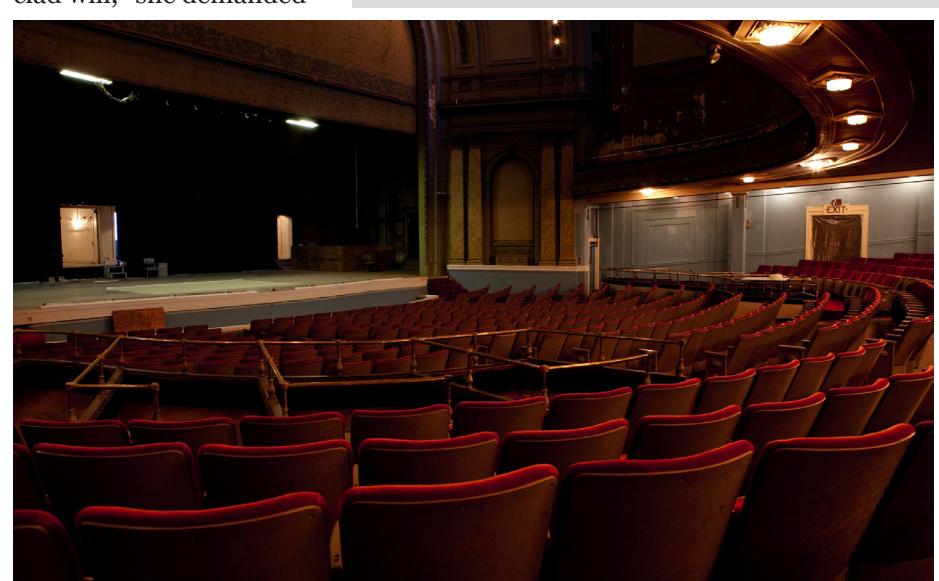
Many times since then, James Brown was front and center as a volunteer. Tara Gordon speaks of how, at one point—prior to a major

I GET A LITTLE SCARED, WHEN I DRIVE THROUGH THE GHETTO. THERE'S PART OF ME THAT WANTS TO HIDE, AND A PART OF ME THAT WANTS TO MOVE IN. EVEN THOUGH I GREW UP IN THE SUBURBS, I DIDN'T REALLY GROW TILL I LEARNED HOW SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE LIVE.

-BEN SOLEE, "THIS IS ONLY A SONG"



The Requiem Project Co-Founders, Tina Manchise, President, and Co-Executive Artistic Director Tara Lindsey Gordon, Artistic-Executive Director (seated). Photo: Michael Wilson.



Emery Theatre. Photo: Michael Wilson.

that the building be used "for the physical, social, civic, and educational betterment of individuals."

Interestingly, Gordon and Manchise, have taken those words quite literally in terms of their ongoing relationship (for one) with longtime Streetvibes vendor, James Brown, who has been a part of the Emery "project" since last April.

The Emery was about to host an event called "Rock This Town"

event—the women were hoping to have Christmas lights strung in what they call the open-air "carriage way" on the South side of the theater, where the "Portolets" stand vigil (at this moment, there are no working bathrooms in the theater). It was a last minute job.

She and Tina had run out of time and energy. "We came in a few hours

{Continued on page 5}



What is an “Urban Pioneer?”



JASON HAAP
Contributing Writer

By now, most of us know that everything we learned about “Plymouth Rock” is merely legend -- the story of the first Thanksgiving, where we imagine a family of Good White Christian Pilgrims having a turkey feast with simple-minded brown savages. Most of us also know that calling Native Americans “simple-minded brown savages” is utterly disrespectful, but at the same time those early legends require us to believe such offensive thoughts. That’s because the stories of these early “pilgrims” are prequels to the tales of the true savages -- the American Pioneers.

Just try to imagine the mindset of those early conquerors: to the West awaited a beautiful country for the

taking, so long as we murdered all the natives first and then kept their land as our own. How did we rationalize such genocide? Religious fundamentalism in the form of “Manifest Destiny” provided a good excuse for our historical fore-bearers. The “pioneers” set off to develop a brave new world, to tame the “wilds” of the American West -- or, in other words, to remove the savages and take their land in the name of Jesus, or something.

Okay, so I may be simplifying things a bit, maybe even a lot. It’s not like families got into covered wagons and said “Let’s go kill some Indians and steal their land.” And, of course, we cannot forget the role of the federal government in things like the Trail of Tears. But my larger point is that, at some level, there is a perniciousness with regard to the story of the pioneers. Their history is steeped in an ugly part of the American story -- a part fraught with the destruction of tribes, and with the displacement and deaths of countless thousands of people.

That’s why, whenever I see local media heralding the great work of Cincinnati’s “Urban Pioneers,” I pause. What are those two words -- “urban” and “pioneer” -- doing together? Pioneers, after all, were people who sent out into the “wilderness,” braving the danger of so-called



2006 Denver Pow-wow. Photo: Justin Jeffre

“Indians” in an attempt to stake a claim on other people’s land.

Doesn’t that mean “urban pioneers” view the cityscape as a “wilderness” -- full of dangers they hope to tame, while staking a claim to land that is not their own? Do they view the urban landscape as a place to build a brave new world, presuming we can do something about those pesky brown skinned savages who are getting in the way of the pioneers’ God-given rights?

Though the election is over, how can we forget the rhetoric about the alleged “class warfare” Republicans said Obama had waged upon this na-

tion? I think, however, the real class warfare doesn’t always get played out in easily forgotten political commercials, but instead in the mindsets we foster about things like gentrification -- when we allow people, by calling themselves “pioneers,” to pretend that our city is a wilderness overrun by uneducated natives who need to be displaced.

Jason Haap is an English teacher with 14 years experience. He is also a political activist who runs and writes for The Cincinnati Beacon, a popular blog.

Obama’s Victory: The End of White Power in America, Perhaps; But Not the End of Money Power

DAN LABOTZ
Contributing Writer

Barack Obama was elected president on Nov. 6 by the votes of America’s ever more diverse electorate. The older and mostly better off white men who constitute the core of the Republican Party’s social base went down to defeat at the hands of unionized workers, people of color, women, and gay and lesbian voters. The last two elections will be seen for decades afterwards as a turning point in our nation’s political history; the beginning of the end of white power in America. Unfortunately it is not the end of the domination of money power.

Many who voted for him were less enthusiastic about Obama this time, but they cast votes against what they saw as Mitt Romney’s unacceptable alternative. African Americans, despite the deteriorating economic conditions of the black population of the United States, voted for Obama not only out of pride in the first black president, but also out of fear of the Republicans’ racist rhetoric most clearly seen in the Tea Party rallies of the last two years. The Republicans’ attempts at voter suppression, particularly the suppression of the black vote, laws which were overturned by the courts in several states, only proved the racist character of the party.

Women Vote to Defend Gains

Women voted for Obama not only to protect reproductive rights, that is, their right to contraception and abortion, but also to defend the hard won gains of the last forty years. Since the 1970s women have won substantially greater equality in the

workplace and in society, the right to equal pay for equal work, for example. Even if women still earn only 77 percent of what men earn, that is ten percent more than it was forty years ago.

Even though Obama had deported more immigrants by far than former president George W. Bush, Latino voters went for Obama after he issued an executive order protecting some young immigrants from deportation. Obama deported 1.4 million undocumented immigrants during his first term, which was 1.5 times more than Bush. But after his June 2012 executive order protecting young undocumented immigrants, the Latino community enthusiastically embraced him once again.

Gay and lesbian voters backed Obama from early on and became even more enthusiastic after the president ended the military’s “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy. When in May of 2012 he said that he supported gay marriage, he had the LGBT vote locked up. LGBT voters were not to be stuffed back into the closet by the Republican Party.

Environmental activists were perhaps the group most disappointed in Obama. While Obama improved fuel economy standards for automobiles and promoted investment in clean energy, he permitted legislation limiting carbon emissions to languish in Congress. Environmentalists voted for Obama only because Romney was so much worse.

The union vote, especially in Wisconsin and Ohio, was key to Obama’s victory. Unions proved so successful in getting out the vote for Obama in those states because of their recently hard fought battles against anti-union legislation promoted by the Republican governors in those

two states. The unions had been in a state of virtually constant campaign mode since 2010 and were able to put tens of thousands of workers in the field to win Obama’s victory.

Yet the Money Power Remains

The African Americans, Latinos, women, gays and lesbians, and union voters who voted as much against Romney as they voted for Obama may have succeeded in breaking the back of the block of prosperous white male voters who have constituted the core of the Republican Party since the Civil War. Yet they did not break the money power which continues to dominate both political parties through its financial contributions and its occupation of the top echelons of American politics.

Banks and corporations provided most of the \$6 billion that went to the candidates, their campaigns, and the various PACS and Superpacs, and those financial contributions are in large measure what allows them to dominate the parties. Their corporate lawyers make up an inordinate number of American politicians while their lobbyists work to shape most legislation.

President Obama showed in his first term that he was the ideal candidate of high finance and big business. He saved the auto corporations, while they still closed plants and then lowered wages for their workers. He saved the banks, but failed to save hundreds of thousands of families who were losing their homes. He worked to restore the macro-economy for the better off while watching the millions of micro-economies of communities and families deteriorate. We can expect more of the same.

Today both Republicans and Democrats are committed to two

things: 1) austerity, that is, using the so-called budget crisis to cut funding for services to most Americans; 2) militarism, that is, maintaining the United States as the preeminent military power on the planet. While they both agree about these central issues, they also disagree about how to achieve them. The Republicans would take an axe to the budget’s health and education programs, while the Democrats would use a carving knife—but both will cut. The Republicans would finance a larger traditional army, while the Democrats prefer a smaller, high tech army—but both will wage war to control the world’s strategic resources, markets, and territory.

The Potential for Change

If Romney had been elected, American working people, the African American and Latino communities, immigrants, women and the LGBT community would have faced a frontal assault. With Obama’s election, we will still face an uphill struggle to defend our rights and meet our needs, though the odds will be somewhat better. The groups that supported Obama will now make demands upon his administration, though they know that their demands can only be realized if they can create social movements that force the government to meet them. With the old bastions of white political power broken, it’s now time to organize an assault on the money power.

Dan Labotz is a prominent American labor union activist, academic, journalist, and author. He was a co-founder of Teamsters for a Democratic Union and has written extensively on worker rights in the United States and Mexico.



Homeless People, Homeless Pets

! STACEY HALL
Contributing Writer

Kathy took in Chief, a German Shepherd, when he was just a pup. She rescued him from a breeder that was not providing proper care. He was infested with fleas, suffering from diarrhea, and was one of only two puppies that survived from his litter of nine. Chief immediately became a part of her brood, joining her human sons, and she cared for him lovingly. Years later, when Kathy was faced with having to enter a local shelter, she agonized over what would become of him, "I couldn't take him and it was almost like I couldn't take my child. I cried. We all cried."

Chief traveled between the homes of four different friends and family while Kathy and her children worked toward new housing. "I would leave shelter in the morning and go pick him up and take him places with me." She spent as much time as she could with him, she said, worried friends would grow tired of caring for him. Plus, "I missed him like crazy. We all missed him."

Finding new housing that was affordable and would allow a dog was a challenge, but eventually it happened. When Chief came back home she said, "Oh my God, it was like Christmas." Her family was finally reunited.

Tina felt the same about her dog, Thumper. Her husband rescued the pup at three weeks old. He was in an abusive home

and in a pile with dead puppies, she said. They nursed him to health and he became a happy pup who enjoyed playing with their two young children. When her family became homeless, Thumper stayed with them as they moved between friends, slept in a car and even stayed in the woods. "He's like our kid," Tina said. There was no way Thumper would be left behind, even as circumstances became more and more desperate.

When Tina and her family entered a local homeless shelter, Thumper was able to remain with friends for a short time. When those friends could no longer keep him, shelter staff and volunteers scrambled to find an alternative. A resourceful intern and generous volunteer made arrangements to foster Thumper on a temporary basis. Thumper even got to come to the shelter on the weekends to visit.

"There are no words to explain how important

{Continued from page 3}

"OUR INTENTION IS TO KEEP THE THEATER IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT REACHES PEOPLE, THAT IT'S NO LONGER JUST A VENUE, BUT INSTEAD A SPACE WHERE MEANINGFUL EVENTS HAPPEN. WE WANT IT TO BE INTERESTING AND QUIRKY, BUT NOT STERILE."

- Tina Manchise

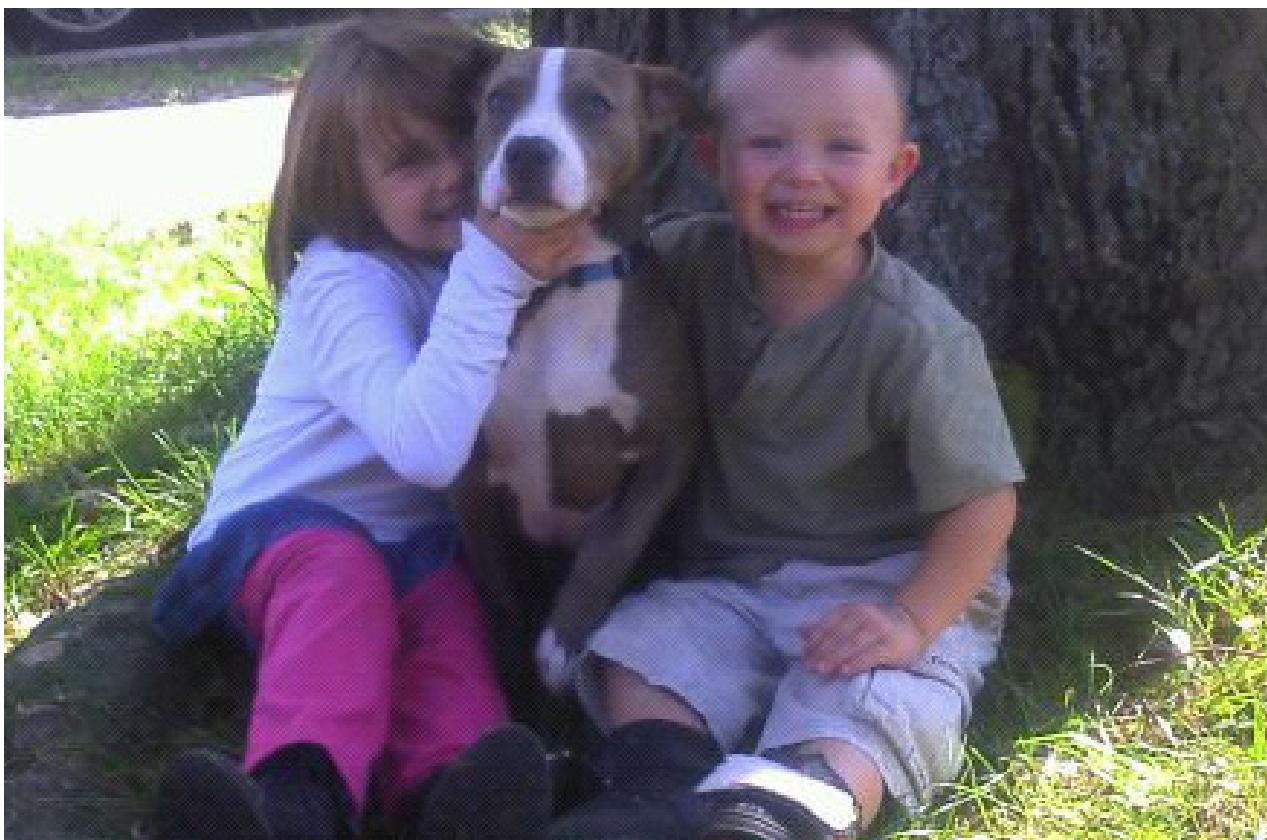
and their endeavor as built on "partnerships, partnerships, and partnerships." They are partners with movers and shakers in the community, including partners with Starfire U and the Homeless Coalition. "We have a shared value," Tara Gordon says, "of seeing people and experiences as worthwhile and worthy."

So, what's next in the effort to revitalize the fabled theater? Of course, a high priority goal for the physical building is bathrooms; more

before the event, and there was James (with several other volunteers) hanging the strands of white lights. Gordon reflects, "They knew how much it meant to us,"

"James feels that he is part of the team," Tina adds. "And he is."

Manchise and Gordon see themselves



Thumper the dog with his siblings. Photo: Cry Anderson

this was," Tina said. Her family, Thumper included, are now back in housing.

The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates that approximately 10% of homeless people have pets. This number may be low considering that 62% of all households in the United States have pets, according to the American Pet Products Association (APPAs).

People love their pets and show it by spending a lot of money on their care. APPAs estimates that 52.87 billion dollars will be spent in 2012 for food, veterinary services, grooming and supplies. This is up from 2011 and is a number that has grown consistently over the last several years despite the economic recession.

People that have a pet as a part of the family tend to see to it that their animal companions are provided for, whether they are high income earners that lavish them with toys, beds and grooming, or families that struggle and sacrifice other wants and needs, like Kathy and Tina, to ensure pets are able to eat and see the vet. And, according to the Homeless People and Their Pets Fact Sheet, produced by the National Coalition for the Homeless, people that are homeless will sometimes go without food themselves so that pets are nourished.

This level of sacrifice indicates a deep bond that the group Pets of the Homeless, based out of

Nevada, wants to be preserved. Motivated by the fact that people facing economic challenges, or that are homeless, love their animal companions no less than anyone else, Pets of the Homeless is working to provide shelters across the country with crates, support and other supplies so that pets and people can stay together. According to their Crate Project application materials, they want to prevent individuals and families from making the choice between seeking shelter and services when they need it and giving up a member of their family.

Locally, the Cincinnati Pet Food Pantry offers dog and cat supplies during a once per month give away to help low-income households care for their pets. Their website--www.cincinnatipetfoodpantry.org--provides a schedule of pantry dates and information on income guidelines and verifications needed to receive assistance.

While this and other resources do exist to help pets in the greater Cincinnati community, local homeless shelters generally lack a coordinated plan for providing services to people and their pets. If you are interested in joining a discussion on developing such a plan, please e-mail: stacey@ihncincinnati.org, or call 513-471-1100, ext 18.



Day by Day Calendar participants hold up recognition certificates at the opening reception October 26 at the Emery. Photo: Leslie Moorhead.

The next step, according to Gordon and Manchise, is to translate the data they have culled from this past year's events and programming into answers to some of the big questions that various donors have put forward. And they want the venue to be "Rock Show ready" for each new upcoming event.

Tina Manchise summarizes things this way. "Our intention is to keep the theater in such a way that it reaches people, that it's no longer just a

venue, but instead a space where meaningful events happen. We want it to be interesting and quirky, but not sterile."

You can learn more about this interesting, quirky space at: emerytheater.com.

Two Civic Leaders Vie For Leadership Spot

Robert E. Richardson, Nominee for President of the Cincinnati NAACP

For many years I have worked diligently to further the NAACP's mission to ensure political, educational, social and economic quality, and to eliminate race-based discrimination. Under former NAACP President Hinton I served on various local NAACP branch committees: Executive Committee, Voter Empowerment Committee, Political Action Committee, Labor and Industry Committee, Nominating Committee, and I have been a Youth Council supporter. I have been a member of the local Cincinnati NAACP branch for over 25 years, and I am a Lifetime member of the NAACP.

My record on inclusion and civil rights is evident in my other professional accomplishments: I served as president of the Cincinnati Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and as Vice President of the African American Caucus of the Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA). I was the Business Manager of LiUNA Local 265 for twenty six years, where I partnered with contractors, owners, and community leaders to provide construction career opportunities for the membership, many of whom were African American. I also served as the President of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, and first Vice President of the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council.

My interest in being elected as President of the local NAACP is to help advance the mission of the NAACP and restore the image and integrity of the Cincinnati Chapter through transparency, voter protection and registration, local partnerships, focused political activity, and economic empowerment.

Over the last few years, I observed the decline of transparency and inclusion of divergent points of view. The current president has steered the NAACP away from its core principles. It is time to have an NAACP solely focused on civil rights and the improvement of the African American Community.

The current president was nearly silent in the face of voter suppression activities during the 2012 general election, and did not actively participate in voter registration or voter education activities. We have seen the most drastic attacks on voters' rights since the Jim Crow era. We must turn back attacks on voters' rights.

Over the last few years the local chapter has focused on narrow political issues, instead of focusing on the NAACP's core mission. I am running because the Cincinnati NAACP should be about civil rights, not partisan politics. I look forward to the membership's support, and to serving as President of the Cincinnati branch of the NAACP.



Christopher Smitherman current President of the Cincinnati NAACP

In 2007, I was elected President of the Cincinnati NAACP. The branch had significant debt, only \$40,000 in the bank, and monthly expenses of \$9,800. Action needed to be taken quickly to turn the unit around, meet our financial obligations, and assemble a team that could host a National

Convention, which involved the most high profile Presidential race of our lifetime.

As a financial planner, I established specific goals for our team: grow the membership, make annual Freedom Fund Dinner each year financially successful, cut expenses, select a working committee to host a national convention, and most importantly make the branch relevant to the Cincinnati community. The Executive Committee made the decision to be defined nationally as the Education Chapter for the Nation by awarding annual scholarships during our Freedom Fund Dinner.

The branch membership has grown each year I have served as president. The National NAACP has recognized this growth with a national membership award each year for successful growth of memberships. The current financial status of the Cincinnati NAACP unit includes no debt, all capital purchases paid for in cash, an education endowment with the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, each year the Cincinnati NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner has been financially successful and politically relevant, and the branch has enough cash to operate for one year without any disruptions in business.

The Cincinnati NAACP team has succeeded in getting a citizen off death row, getting citizens out of jail, expanding economic opportunities for African American businesses, hosting the 2008 National Convention which our team still receives national praise as one of the best conventions, and instilling a sense of pride in being a member of the branch. The branch has also succeeded in putting seven issues on the ballot by collecting more than 100,000 signatures. Our team stopped the building of another jail, red light cameras, the sale of our water system, and the imposition of a trash fee. Although the streetcar ballot was not approved, the majority of our membership still opposes the project.

The Cincinnati NAACP has raised awareness regarding early voting by initiating sleeping outside of the Hamilton County Board of Elections for the last five years. These are great examples of proactive civil rights issues of the 21st Century.

I am so proud to serve as the President of the Cincinnati NAACP which is one hundred percent a volunteer position. I humbly ask you for your vote for president of the Cincinnati NAACP.

Places to go, people to see

DYLAN SPEEG
Contributing Writer

Cincinnati ushers in the holiday season with the lighting of the holiday tree during Macy's Light Up the Square. Music by Timeflies and ice skating begin 6:30 p.m. Brian Douglas of Q102-FM and Sheree Paolello of Channel 5 emcee from P&G's Music Stage at 7 p.m. You will get to see Santa plus the tree lighting and an amazing fireworks show for free. It goes down November 23rd : 6:30 p.m. As an added feature, Drew and Lea Lachey, hometown celebrities, will be there as special guests. It happens on Fountain Square at Fifth and Vine streets in downtown Cincinnati.

Historic Lebanon Ohio will be the setting for the 24th Annual Lebanon Carriage Parade & Christmas Festival on December 1st. A bunch of carriages decorated for the holidays parade through downtown Lebanon at 1pm and 7pm pulled by super cute mini-horses, ponies, Belgian, Percheron and Clydesdale horses. Between parades you can shop the variety of antique and sweet shops or walk around the festival tasting its food and buying from craft vendors. You can enjoy both Santa and Mrs.

Claus, live entertainment or take a magical trip to the North Pole on the North Pole Express.

Finally! It's time for the PNC Festival of Lights, a display of nearly two million beautiful lights, with a puppet show "Winter Wonders" show in black light, a "Wild Lights Show" on Swan Lake, train rides, hip-hop elves and chill-out with Santa and Mrs. Claus. A brand new feature this year is the Happy Feet 4-D Experience playing at the Special FX 4-D Theater. I always go and I am never disappointed. It's happening November 23rd to January 1st at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden at 3400 Vine St.

It's time once again for the St. Nikolaus Day Celebration! St. Nikolaus is going to meet and charm children of all ages from 3 to 5 PM. Members of the Cincinnati Carvers Guild will be showing their fantastic and elaborate wood carvings, and German Christmas songs will be presented at 3 PM by the Kinderchor of the Fairview-Clifton German Language School. You can enjoy chocolate drinks, cookies and Kuchen, which will also be available. It all goes down December 2nd: 1 p.m.-5 p.m. at the German Pioneer Museum at 4790 West Fork Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247.

SAVE THE DAY

Every Friday at Noon
People's Platform for Equality & Justice
Peaslee Neighborhood Center

Tuesday December 11th
Homeless Coalition Annual Award Dinner. Syndicate in Newport

Friday December 21st
Homeless Memorial Day

If your organization is having an event, demonstration, etc. and you would like it included on the Streetvibes calendar, please email with the details:
streetvibes@cincihomeless.org

Recent Work of the Coalition

{Continued from page 2}

formed committees comprising service providers, academic expertise, and foundation experience, together representing 40 different governmental, public and nonprofit organizations; coordinated studies and produced a report with recommendations on family homelessness. This report can be seen on our website at www.cincihomeless.org.

- This report showed that Cincinnati is not preventing family homelessness and does not currently have the capacity to satisfy the rapidly growing needs of families becoming homeless. A major effort for the immediate future is to advocate for, and increase resources, to prevent family homelessness.
- Increased mail and telephone service to over 800 individuals who do not have a permanent mailing address or other access to a telephone, enabling displaced individuals to be contacted for employment, and preventing them from losing communication with family and friends while experiencing homelessness.
- Worked to bring together service providers and various organizations to create the first winter shelter ever open throughout the cold season of 2011-12. Shelter was open 90 nights and served 869 unduplicated individuals, including families. Service providers were from Coalition membership. The previous winter a cold shelter was open only when the wind chill dropped below 9° F. Of those attending, 14% had never accessed food or housing resources previously.
- Organized 208 low income tenants living at Metropole when 3CDC planned to remove them from their homes to make room for the construction of a boutique hotel. Secured volunteer lawyers who brought suit on behalf of tenants against 3CDC, City, and HUD. The resulting settlement gave the tenants moving expenses plus \$80,000 to be divided among these evicted tenants (the first such settlement in the City's history); HUD created 223 new subsidized housing vouchers as

a result-different from normal protocol and 3CDC was forced to hold regular meetings with Coalition representatives,

- Worked to convince contractors and 3CDC to hire certified skilled workers living in the OTR neighborhood for work on Washington Park.
- Through public pressure advocated for the procurement of public toilets in Washington Park while restrooms were closed for renovations. Influenced 3CDC along with the support of a local church to install temporary restrooms. This was meant to prevent 3CDC from blaming people without homes for inevitable increases in public defecation.
- Increased Streetvibes publication to twice monthly. Between January 2012 and November 2012 Streetvibes produced \$53,989 in potential income to Streetvibes Distributors. A recent increase in price also contributed to doubling the distributor's income.
- Collaborated with Prairie Inc. for three years in a row on the Day by Day Calendar project. Streetvibes Distributors were given the opportunity to learn photography skills, and used their skills to take photographs as they traversed the neighborhoods to create a calendar. 32 Streetvibes Distributors earned \$3,429.00 of additional income in 2011-2012.
- In 2011-2012 the Voice of the Homeless Speaker's Bureau and other educational programs gave people experiencing homelessness the opportunity to speak to over 4,800 people at schools and civic organizations. This produced \$4,075.00 of income to speakers.
- Continued to provide support to member organizations facing threats to their operation. In this past year this has often meant organizing public demonstrations and showing in other ways substantial public support of the Anna Louise Inn.
- Lobbied City Council and other local officials on issues affecting individuals with low income and experiencing homelessness.



CLEO'S CORNER:

There was Jesus, Moses and an old man playing golf. Moses knocks a ball 100 feet in the air but doesn't make it in. Jesus pats Moses on the back and says, "Pretty good shot Moses, but not good enough." Jesus hits the ball 10,000 feet in the air and right into the hole. The old man steps up and knocks the golf ball into a tree. A squirrel spots the ball. Thinking it's a walnut he takes off running with it. An Eagle spots the squirrel, grabs it and flies away with its flapping wings. A lightning bolt hits the Eagle. The Eagle drops the squirrel. The squirrel drops the ball which goes into the hole. Jesus says "fantastic shot Dad." By **CLEO WOMBLES**
Streetvibes Distributor

SANTA CLAUS

Today while watching the news I heard that Santa Claus arrived in a helicopter. They also talked about tax cuts and how the politicians were eating out at Red Lobsters. What happened to the days when the bells rang for Santa Claus, his reindeer and sled. What happened to the belief in miracles and all the little children went to bed. Waiting for that glorious morning to open all the presents that Santa left under the tree. Asking questions about how he brought all the gifts down the smoke filled chimney. Waiting day and night, trying to be good all for Christmas so we'd be granted the ultimate blessing. Looking back and understanding that as a child I was tricked, Santa in a helicopter that's a new lesson. Without the holiday's Thanksgiving and Christmas Day what else is there to really look forward too. Without giving thanks for so many blessings and being thankful for Jesus birth just to name a few. So for me Christmas has somehow lost the true spirit and has been misunderstood by all. We must always remember God's blessings, don't forget to give thanks and bring back Rudolph the red nose reindeer driving Santa Claus!!!!

By
WILLA DENISE JONES
Streetvibes Distributor

POST ELECTION BLUES OR RICH WHITE MEN IN DESPAIR

Super rich white men are such dominant folks, With so much bravado and locker room jokes. In this fall's campaign they failed to hold sway, As the new demographics had come into play. Rove and his buddies spent a billion or more. In their efforts to show Prez Obama the door. They thought rich guys of a white complexion Could raise enough money to buy this election.

By
BILL WOODS
Contributing Writer

YOUR CHILD'S FEARS

Have you ever looked in your child's eyes, and saw their fears?
 Such beautiful clear eyes, full of hope, and full of cheer.

Deep inside is a special place,
 For the child, we can never replace.

Even though a parent knows, the future will make them cry,
 And someday we will have to say goodbye, and our children will cry.

We can be assured that God will help them when they cry,
 When we will have to say goodbye.

When your child can't hear your voice, or your advice, let the child have no fear,
 God will always be there to listen to your child's fears.

By
KIM GREEN
Streetvibes Distributor

STREETVIBES!

CURRENT DISTRIBUTORS



Streetvibes is distributed by individuals who purchase the paper for 50 cents per copy and sell it for a \$1.50 donation, keeping the profit they have earned. Becoming a Distributor is a great way for individuals who are financially poor to get back on (or stay on) their feet. This program provides supplemental income for those unable to secure other employment. Money earned helps meet basic housing, food and health care needs. The program is a hand up for people who are often in a place of getting only a hand out, or even no hand at all. All Distributors wear a badge and usually a vest and can be found selling the paper in Downtown Cincinnati, Clifton, Northside, northern Kentucky and area churches.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All Streetvibes Distributors must abide by the following rules. They are made aware that any infraction of the rules may result in suspension of their privilege to distribute Streetvibes and possible termination from the program.

Streetvibes will be distributed for a dollar fifty (\$1.50). Distributors agree not to ask for more than \$1.50 or solicit donations for Streetvibes by any other means. If a customer donates more than \$1.50 for a paper, distributors are allowed to keep the donation.

Distributors only purchase papers from the Homeless Coalition. Each paper can be purchased for a cost of 50 cents. Distributors must show their badge when buying papers.

Distributors will never buy papers from and/or distribute papers to other distributors.

Distributors agree to treat all others - customers, staff, and other distributors - respectfully. Distributors will not use abusive language or force someone to buy a paper. Distributors will not give a "hard sell" or be aggressive. Distributors will not continue to ask someone if they want a Streetvibes after they have verbally or non-verbally said no and they will not make someone feel threatened.

Distributors will not panhandle while distributing Streetvibes.

Distributors agree to stay off private property when distributing Streetvibes. Distributors will not distribute Streetvibes door to door.

Distributors will not stand in front of doorways, walkways, crosswalks or parking meters nor will I impede traffic or sit down while distributing Streetvibes.

Distributors understand they are not employees of Streetvibes or the Homeless Coalition but a contract worker responsible for their own well-being and income.

Distributors agree not to distribute additional goods or products when distributing Streetvibes.

Distributors will not distribute Streetvibes or purchase Streetvibes under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

There are no territories among distributors. However, distributors must respect the space of other distributors, particularly the space of distributors who have been at a spot longer.

It is unacceptable for any distributor to persuade or ask customers not to purchase Streetvibes from other distributors. Coercion will not be tolerated. If a customer prefers to purchase from certain distributors that is up to them.

Distributors will not deceive the public by saying they are collecting for a nonprofit charity or collecting for the "homeless" in general. Distributors will be honest in stating that all the profits from the sale of Streetvibes go to the distributor. Distributors will only use the word "donation" when referring to themselves, not the Coalition.

There are special rules for distributing at Findlay Market. Only distributors with approval may distribute at Findlay Market at a time. Other rules as established by Streetvibes and Findlay Market.

Distributors will attend monthly meetings. Monthly meetings occur every 4 weeks on Fridays at 1PM, (dates are posted in the lobby) these meetings are mandatory. Anyone who cannot make the meeting must talk with the Distributor Program Coordinator, before distributing Streetvibes for that month. Ten papers will be given to those who attend the meeting.

It is the responsibility of each distributor to police fellow distributors or former distributors. Distributors will report violators of the rules to the Homeless Coalition. The value of the paper depends on keeping it credible.

Ireland to clarify abortion rules after woman's death

! CONOR HUMPHRIES
& LORRAINE TURNER
Reuters
www.street-papers.org

Thousands took to the streets to protest last week after news broke of the death of Savita Halappanavar of septicemia following a miscarriage 17 weeks into her pregnancy.

Activists in the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country, which has some of the world's most restrictive laws on abortion, say the refusal by doctors to terminate the pregnancy earlier may have contributed to her death.

"I was deeply disturbed yesterday by what Savita's husband said. I don't think as a country we should allow a situation where women's rights are put at risk in this way," Deputy Prime Minister Eamon Gilmore told parliament.

"There is no question of equivocation. We need to bring legal clarity to this issue and that is what we are going to do."

Irish law does not specify under what circumstances the threat to the life or health of the mother is high enough to justify a termination, leaving doctors to decide. Critics say this means doctors' personal beliefs can play a role.

Halappanavar was admitted to hospital in severe pain on Oct. 21 and asked for a termination after doctors told her the baby would not survive, according to her husband Praveen.

The foetus was surgically removed when its heartbeat stopped days later, but her family believes the delay contributed to the blood poisoning that killed Halappanavar on Oct. 28.

Praveen said he would wait for the results of an investigation before deciding whether to sue, but that Ireland's Roman Catholic tradition appeared to have been a factor in the decision to deny a termination.

"I am still in shock. It is hard to believe that religion can mean somebody's life," Praveen Halappanavar told Reuters. He said he planned to return to Ireland from India, where he travelled with his wife's body.

The Irish health authority (HSE) has launched an inquiry which the health minister said must "stand up to the scrutiny of the world."



A woman holds a candlelit vigil outside University Hospital Galway in Galway. Photo: REUTERS/Cathal McNaughton

Irish media said Praveen would be interviewed.

The Indian couple were resident and working in Ireland, he as an engineer and she as a dentist.

POLITICAL STORM

Despite a dramatic waning of the influence of the Catholic Church, which dominated politics in Ireland until the 1980s, successive governments have been loath to legislate on an issue they fear could alienate conservative voters.

Fine Gael, the senior partner in Ireland's ruling coalition, told supporters before a recent election that it would not introduce new laws allowing abortion during its five-year term, despite pressure from its junior partner Labour to act.

The government said it had received long-delayed recommendations from an expert panel on introducing new rules on abortion, and would report before the end of the month.

Four out of five Irish voters support a change in the law to permit abortion in cases where a mother's life is at risk, according to a recent opinion poll.

But a vocal anti-abortion minority has dominated the debate on abortion in Ireland in the past, with campaigners arguing that the adoption of legislation or guidelines for medical terminations would bring in abortion through the back door.

In 1992, when challenged in the "X-case" involving a 14-year-old rape victim, the Supreme Court ruled that abortion was permitted when the woman's life was at risk, including from suicide. A European Court of Human Rights in 2010 ruled that Ireland must clarify what this means in practice.

"This is exactly what the (European) court was complaining about ... The court has not said Ireland must or must not have abortion, they said they have to clarify circumstances," said Ronan

McCrea, a barrister and lecturer in law at University College London.

"The vagueness ... gives excessive scope to doctors to follow their own personal views or it means even if they want to give the treatment, they'll fall foul of the law," he said.

Halappanavar's death has dominated debate in Ireland's parliament since news of it broke. Her photograph was spread across front pages of all Ireland's major newspapers, while editorials demanded action from politicians.

The fact that she is a foreign national has heightened the government's embarrassment. The story was on the front of several large Indian newspapers and family members were featured on national television.

The Indian government said it deeply regretted Halappanavar's death. "The death of an Indian national in such circumstances is a matter of concern," a spokesman said.

Crisis pushes women into prostitution



Xana, a typist before the crisis, now works as a prostitute.
Photo: Mario Queiroz/IPS

! MARIO QUEIROZ
Reuters
www.street-papers.org

The decision to sell one's body cannot be taken lightly. But for many mothers the alternative is to condemn their children to hunger, which is why "increasing numbers of women in their thirties, who are victims of the crisis, are resorting to prostitution," said Inês Fontinha, head of the Associação O Ninho (Nest Association).

Fontinha, who has spent the past 40 years of her life working with prostitutes, said that never before had the situation in the country been so serious. Added to this situation is the fear that is natural in novices to the game, many of whom are divorced, or married and plying their trade behind their husbands' backs.

She said, "A few days ago, a woman told me: 'When my apartment doorbell rings, I tremble to think it might be someone I know, and if it is, what on earth would I do?'"

These inexperienced women are also afraid on a daily basis of falling victim to human trafficking networks,

often controlled by the so-called "Eastern mafias", in comparison with which the local pimps seem almost harmless.

In Europe, these rings are generally made up of Kosovars, Albanians, Russians, Ukrainians and Rumanians. In order to beat the competition they use brutal methods like cutting the women with razors, and carrying out sensational murders of their pimps to send a clear message and mark their territory.

Up until 2010, according to Portuguese NGOs, there were 28,000 sex workers in this country of 10.6 million people. Half of them were born in Portugal, and the other half were mainly Brazilians, Rumanians, Bulgarians and Nigerians, who were usually victims of human trafficking rings.

Fontinha said in an interview on the Lisbon radio station TSF and the private television channel SIC that "the constant anxiety because of the crisis is driving more and more women, and also men, into prostitution. For instance in Coimbra, 190 km north of Lisbon and capital of the country's Centro region, 400 new people are working in prostitution this year."

Alexandra Oliveira, who launched her book "Caminhar na Vida: a Prostituição de Rua e a Reação Social" (Walking in Life: Street

{Continued on page 11}

Lawsuit Seeks to Establish First Amendment Right to Photograph Police

JUSTIN JEFFRE
Streetvibes Editor

In a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court in Cincinnati, Plaintiff Lloyd Jordan claims that two undercover Cincinnati Police officers violated his constitutional rights when they arrested him and seized his camera after he photographed them on a public street.

Jordan's arrest took place in November, 2011, on the evening of an Occupy Cincinnati protest and rally at Piatt Park in downtown Cincinnati. Jordan was physically arrested and charged with disorderly conduct while intoxicated, and obstructing official business. Jordan was cleared when both charges were later dropped by the City Prosecutor.

Jordan's case raises questions, first, about the rights of citizens to record or photograph police, but also, about the practices of police departments who use undercover agents to monitor political organizations. The criminal complaint in Jordan's arrest states that undercover officers were present at Piatt Park during the Occupy Cincinnati events to conduct surveillance.

According to Jordan's attorney, J. Robert Linneman, the case is one of a wave of cases nationwide

in which citizens are attempting to establish the right to bear witness to police conduct through photography and video. "In the era of the mobile phone, photography and video can provide valuable evidence and are usually readily available. The right to gather information about our government, including photographing police, is an essential tool of democracy and is protected by the First Amendment."

Recent cases around the country have addressed similar legal issues. In a Massachusetts case in May of 2012, the United States Department of Justice took the position that the recording of police officers in the public discharge of their duties is an activity that is protected by the First Amendment, and that police departments should train officers of this basic right in order to avoid wrongful arrests. Also in May of 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit issued an injunction barring the enforcement of the Illinois "wiretap" statute against citizens who take



Jesse Jackson speaks to protesters the night Lloyd Jordan was arrested.
Photo: Homeless Coalition.

video of police. In August of 2011, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit ruled that Boston police officers had violated the plaintiff's civil rights when they arrested him and charged him with disturbing the peace and wiretapping after he took video of an arrest. Even photographing undercover officers has been established as protected

under the First Amendment by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Florida since 1995.

According to Linneman, Jordan hopes that the lawsuit will bring reform to the Cincinnati Police Department and will cause it to bring its policies in line with a modern view of the First Amendment law.

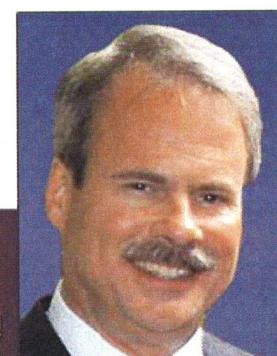
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Cincinnati Living Green Gardening on the Westside of Town - The Westwood Community Garden

MIMI ROOK
Contributing Writer

The Westwood community garden was developed to be more than just a green, shared, garden space for residents. Sponsored by the Westwood Civic Association, the recognized community council for the neighborhood, this first garden is leading the charge to combat the blight, crime and abandonment decimating an historical and formerly prosperous Western Hills community. This first Westwood community garden is providing neighborhood improvement on many levels:

- Environmental
- Aesthetic
- A fresh food source
- A social outlet
- Charitable Giving
- Civic Engagement

2163 Harrison Avenue, the site of the Westwood Community Garden was a problem property with a high rate of crime and vandalism. In 2005, Cincinnati City Council passed an ordinance allowing the demolition of such buildings. Two years later the building was razed, but for three more years the site was a storage lot for construction and utility companies. It continued to be a trouble magnet for Westwood, attracting high levels of trash and criminal activity.

Finally, in 2010, with construction completed, the Westwood Civic Association got a Land Use Agreement with the City of Cincinnati and the Civic Garden Center to build a community garden at the site. Several members from the Association began attending classes at the Civic Garden Center, beginning the initial designs and plans for the garden. (The blueprint can be found on their Westwood Community

Garden wikispaces blog site – along with other useful gardening links). The garden's eight members of what they consider their "Core Team" plan the garden's progressive development and work projects. In addition to the \$25 yearly rental fee, all gardeners commit to an extra sixteen hours of shared work at the garden each year, helping with overall improvements, weeding, promotion, and other activities.

As the garden plans took shape, a local resident owning heavy equipment volunteered his time and machinery to level and grade the site after other neighborhood volunteers pitched in to clear it of trash, weeds and an old, decrepit fence. That same year, the group received a grant award from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful to fund the purchase and erection of a new perimeter fence. The city's Civic Garden Center provided support and materials for the raised beds and amended soil to fill them. The city parks department provided shredded wood mulch from tree removal projects to spread in the 4 foot paths between the garden beds. Westwood residents began planting in July of 2011 and were still harvesting produce in December!

From the beginning, Westwood Civic Association president Joel Kimmet, says, "There was so much support for the garden, the sky's the limit." He said that efforts at community outreach, from their Facebook page, the Wikispaces blog space, a neighborhood door to door campaign and talks with local organization drew not just voiced support but also donations to help with continuous improvement to the garden. A retaining wall to help prevent soil runoff is funded by the local Kiwanis Club. Among the list of planned improvements (as donations and awarded grants occur and time



Photo: Westwood Community Garden.

allows) are finishing construction of a toolshed, adding more raised beds, building a gazebo where gardeners can relax and enjoy the garden and a greenhouse to raise produce during the winter.

Despite the former problems at the location, Kimmet said there has been no vandalism to the garden and that it, "brings together a broad cross-section of people from all different backgrounds."

Mary Jenkins joined the community garden and became its coordinator that first year. She is also a vice-president with the Westwood Civic Association. Jenkins provides administrative services for the garden, overseeing the necessary budget records and payments. She has also written the grant applications

for garden projects. Another responsibility is organizing the work party postings which provide the overall improvements to the garden, on the garden's Facebook page. Like Kimmet, she too, is pleased with the changes she is seeing in the neighborhood at that location, saying, "People walk by and say thank you!... It's a tangible way to improve the neighborhood".

Jenkins added that the garden provides, "an increased sense of neighborliness." She was one of the gardeners initially walking the neighborhood to personally hand out flyers and knock on doors to let nearby residents know about the garden and invite them to join.

{Continued on page 13}

{Continued from page 9}

Prostitution and Social Reactions) Thursday Oct. 13, says prostitution is a choice usually made after a traumatic event.

Oliveira, a researcher at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences at the University of Oporto, did her doctoral thesis on the world of prostitution in that city, the second largest in the country, 330 km north of Lisbon and the capital of the Norte region.

"Prostitution should be legalised to make it socially acceptable," she said, adding that it is still "highly stigmatised."

Oliveira studied prostitution in the streets of Oporto for six years, using the ethnographic method in which the researcher goes into the field and learns about what is going on by questioning, listening and observing the practitioners, to analyse their behaviour from their point of view.

Her findings indicate that most sex workers, especially streetwalkers, come from the lower socioeconomic strata, have little formal education or professional training, and are from poor backgrounds.

The incidence of drug abuse is high: the main goal of 30 percent of prostitutes is to earn money to support their habit. The level of addiction has apparently changed markedly since 2009, when the effects of the global crisis began to be felt in Portugal.

To fight the crisis, drastic cuts have been made in public spending and social subsidies, in a far from promising outlook for the anaemic economy.

The fiscal adjustment plan has included the most swingeing cuts in public expenditure in the last 50 years, with the associated social costs of higher unemployment and climbing poverty, which had been brought down after the fall of the 1926-1974 dictatorship.

What causes a woman to become a sex worker? IPS asked two women who took up the life because of the crisis.

Pamela and Xana (their working names) said they are only in it for the money, but emphasised that, as Pamela said, "It's not at all an easy job."

"Lots of people mistakenly say that women who prostitute themselves do it for sexual pleasure, but they have no idea why we do

what we do," said Xana, a 29-year-old divorcée from Lisbon with two children she has to "feed, clothe and educate."

Pamela and her partner also split up. "From one day to the next he left home, and when a woman is left on her own with two children and the bills mounting up every day, life becomes pretty grim," said Pamela, who worked in the textile industry up to a year ago.

After several attempts to get a job, "nothing worked out," she said. The unemployment rate currently stands at 13 percent, according to official figures, and between 17 and 18 percent according to the trade unions. "That's why I ended up resorting to prostitution," she said.

Both Xana's and Pamela's families are unaware of their activities. Most sex workers lead a double life that their relatives do not know about.

IPS asked if the women knew how families reacted when they found out what their women relatives were doing. "According to some of the women I know, reactions vary," said Xana, a former office worker in Lisbon.

One woman, Xana said, "confessed to her parents what she was doing, and they became furious

and said they would never accept it. But in other cases I know, their families accepted the idea, because they had a vested interest and expected to receive some money."

As for the sex itself, both women stated that they themselves set the rules, defining very clearly what was acceptable and what they were not prepared to do.

"We always insist on condoms. It doesn't matter if a client offers more money to have unprotected sex, we won't agree," said Pamela.

Can one be happy in such a life? was IPS' final question.

Xana answered for both of them, with Pamela nodding agreement. "When you are constantly judged and condemned, naturally you don't feel very good...If our line of work was regarded in the same way as any other profession, I think we would feel better about what we do."

Maryland, Maine, Washington approve gay marriage

Voters in Maryland, Maine and Washington state approved same-sex marriage, marking the first time marriage rights have been extended to same-sex couples by popular vote.

EDITH HONAN
Reuters
www.street-papers.org

The vote was hailed as a watershed moment by gay rights activists. While same-sex unions have been legalized in six states and the District of Columbia by lawmakers or courts, voters had consistently rejected doing so. Voters in more than 30 states have approved constitutional bans on gay marriage.

"We made history and sent a powerful message that we have truly reached a tipping point on gay and lesbian civil rights in this country," said Brian Ellner, head of the pro-gay marriage group The Four. "By winning for the first time on marriage at the ballot box, we made clear what national polls already show - that Americans support fairness and equality for all families."

President Barack Obama this year became the first U.S. president to support gay marriage. His campaign endorsed the gay marriage measures in the three states.

In Maryland, the measure

passed 52 percent to 48 percent. In Maine, voters supported the proposal 53 percent to 47 percent, with 75 percent of precincts reporting. And in Washington, a gay marriage measure was approved 52 percent to 48 percent.

Voters in Minnesota rejected a proposal that would have defined marriage solely as a heterosexual union. The constitutional amendment failed 48 percent to 52 percent.

In all four states, the marriage equality effort did better in urban areas and were less popular among rural voters.

The constitutionality of restricting marriage to unions between a man and a woman is widely expected to be taken up by the U.S. Supreme Court soon.

James Esseks, director of the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Project, called the votes a "watershed moment" for gay and lesbian families.

"Not long ago, marriage for same-sex couples was unimaginable," he said. "In a remarkably short time, we have seen courts start to rule in favor of the freedom to marry, then legislatures affirm it, and now the people vote

for it as well."

OPPONENTS SAY OUTSPENT

Brian Brown, president of the National Organization for Marriage - the leading group opposing same-sex marriage - said those favoring so-called traditional marriage had been outspent by a margin of at least 4 to 1.

"Our opponents and some in the media will attempt to portray the election results as a changing point in how Americans view gay marriage, but that is not the case," Brown said in a statement. "Americans remain strongly in favor of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The election results reflect the political and funding advantages our opponents enjoyed in these very liberal states."

In Massachusetts, Iowa and Connecticut, laws followed court rulings that same-sex couples could not be denied marriage rights. Legislatures approved the change

in Vermont, New York and New Hampshire.

Before this year, ballot initiatives banning the legal recognition of same-sex marriage had succeeded in 31 states, and no state had ever approved same-sex marriage by popular vote.

Maine voters rejected gay marriage in a referendum in 2009 by 53 to 47 percent. In Washington and Maryland, where state legislatures previously passed laws expanding marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples, it was up to citizens to decide whether to let the laws stand.

"Over these past few weeks, Marylanders joined together to affirm that for a free and diverse people of many faiths - a people committed to religious freedom - the way forward is always found through greater respect for the equal rights and human dignity of all," Governor Martin O'Malley said in a statement.

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Asa Franckewitz and Bruce Cromer.
Photo by Sandy Underwood.

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Season presented by The Otto M. Budig Family Foundation and Heidelberg Distributing Company.





Photo: Westwood Community Garden.

{Continued from page 11}

Michelle Conda, a longtime member of Westwood's Citizens on Patrol (COP), stepped away from COP to step into the garden in 2012. A first time gardener, she had purchased her rental plot for the growing season, prepped it and bought plants for it, when she was seriously injured in a traffic incident, which completely sidelined her for much of the growing season. To her amazement, two fellow gardeners e-mailed her, letting her know they would care for her plot until she fully recovered. They planted her purchased plants and tended them while Conda convalesced, keeping her updated on their progress. By the time she could visit the garden, she had ample crops of zucchini, "lots of tomatoes", onions and cucumbers growing in her plot. Conda also enjoyed the socializing occurring at the garden. In particular, she enjoyed the end of the season "Howl at the Moon" party at the garden, an evening fireside party with guitars, singing, plenty of food and even a telescope to gaze up at the full Harvest moon hanging overhead in the night sky.

For some of those involved, the garden also provides service opportunities to help feed others in need. The core group organized a "Plant a Row for the Hungry" initiative. Several of the gardeners entirely dedicated their plots to growing fresh food to donate to a local pantry called "My Neighbor's Place", housed by the Westwood United Methodist Church. Other gardeners donated their excess produce to the pantry. Mary Bryan, a gardener at the site, took the job of collecting and coordinating a run to the pantry, usually on Wednesday mornings, which worked better with her schedule as a realtor.

She said at the height of the growing season,

she was making weekly drop-offs of fresh greens, lettuces, kale, zucchini, cucumbers and melons. As the heat and drought continued, it created more challenging growing conditions, and deliveries dropped off, but she said the volunteers collecting the fresh produce she dropped off, "were always grateful, they were never unhappy to receive it."

My Neighbor's Place is a collaborative effort between several different Westwood denominations, including the local First Westwood Presbyterian, Gloria Dei Lutheran and St. James Episcopal churches. Reverend Lee Strahan, pastor of the Westwood United Methodist

Church, where My Neighbor's Place is located, believes, "We can do things better together than separately."

Reverend Strahan, said he and his wife originally rented a plot at the community garden to grow food in, but with limited time for projects outside of the church, ended up donating its use to community gardeners who were also members of the church to raise fresh produce for the pantry.

My Neighbor's Place was begun by the church's former pastor, Steve Bennett. Originally, the churches provided all the funding for food, but with \$2,000.00 monthly expenditures for food, they affiliated last year with the Freestore Foodbank, allowing My Neighbor's Place to get "more bang for the buck". The pantry also receives food donations from local residents who generously shop and donate to the pantry, from the nearby Panera Bakery and also another local bakery, and the neighborhood Kroger's.

Strahan estimates they feed 60 Westwood families and residents weekly, asking only that those using My Neighbor's Place limit their visits to once per month to allow more families to use the food pantry

service.

Strahan says that he views My Neighbor's Place, like the garden, as a social outlet, providing a variety of services, including Tuesday and Thursday worship services with fellowship and coffee, Christmas gift donations and tutoring services. He said he sees the pantry as, "encouraging you to break out of your shell", a place to as he puts it, "to be a friend" ...

Strahan hopes to see the Westwood Community garden expand and add enough plots to allow people who use My Neighbor's Place to garden, particularly those living in apartments with no easy access to land in which to grow their own food. He hopes for other garden space to be added for those with "mobility issues", who cannot easily use the current system of watering their garden bed by carrying water in buckets from the spigot back to their plots. He hopes for an eventual community garden closer to My Neighbor's Place.

The Westwood garden is about a mile away, making it difficult for those without cars or living further away from the garden to transport themselves and haul cumbersome tools along. With the Westwood Community Garden moving into its third year of existence, the neighborhood now has a 4-H Club in place, and involvement from neighborhood children. The garden has also received assistance from the local Boy Scouts. Joel Kimmet says the "word is getting out" and the core group who oversees the garden is beginning plans for educational classes at the garden. They also hope to begin building garden space across the street with more benches and flowers for residents. Kimmet says, "It's amazing what a garden does."

Mimi Rook is a regular contributor on community gardening. Her next article will be on the new cincycompost site.



Photo: Westwood Community Garden.

Playhouse In The Park and U.S. Bank Present Tri-State Holiday Favorite: A Christmas Carol

STREETVIBES
 Staff

The spirit of the season arrives at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park as U.S. Bank presents Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol. A popular favorite with Tri-state families now in its 22nd year, A Christmas Carol runs in the Playhouse's Robert S. Marx Theatre from Nov. 29 through Dec. 30.

Adapted by Howard Dallin, the Playhouse's version of A Christmas Carol combines faithful storytelling with spellbinding stage magic to bring to life its familiar story of a sinner given one last chance at redemption by four persuasive ghosts. Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a miraculous Christmas Eve transformation as he views with new eyes his past, present and the possibilities of the future. As he witnesses all those who have improved his life — his first love Belle, his kindhearted employer Fezziwig, his nephew Fred and his heartily abused clerk Bob Cratchit — he realizes that it's never too late to change his miserly ways. A Christmas Carol's heartwarming message, along with hundreds of costumes and thrilling special effects, helps to make the show one of the Playhouse's most popular productions each year.

Playhouse Associate Artistic Director Michael Evan Haney, who has been associated with

A Christmas Carol since its first year (including two as the first Bob Cratchit), directs the show for the 20th time.

According to Haney, "One of my greatest joys every year is returning to Howard Dallin's faithful adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The rich and colorful language of the book has been adapted into dialogue enabling the actors to speak in such a way as to retain the beauty and rhythm of the original prose. It is a beautiful retelling of, as I call it, the second greatest story ever told."

Tickets for A Christmas Carol are on sale now. Prices range from \$30-\$80, depending on day and seat location, and are subject to change. For tickets or for



Avery Clark is the Ghost of Christmas Future and Bruce Cromer is Ebenezer Scrooge in the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park's annual production of A Christmas Carol.

Photo: Sandy Underwood.

more information, call the Playhouse box office at 513-421-3888 (toll-free in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana at 800-582-3208) or visit www.cincyplay.com.

“Peace, Love, Gaza”

! MIKE CANON
Contributing Writer

Cincinnati students and community members held a spirited rally on Friday November 16th in support of Gaza. The Israeli military has once again launched an assault on the territory and Friday's action was part of an international campaign of solidarity with the Palestinian people. Over 30 people braved the weather and short notice to rally on the corner of MLK and Clifton Ave. Protesters waved Palestinian flags and displayed signs such as "End Israeli Apartheid" and "Peace, Love, Gaza". The rally was further energized by chants such as, "End the Occupation, Palestine is a Nation!".

After the rally, a number of participants held a meeting to discuss next steps. A number of follow-up events were discussed, such as future rallies, film showings, and panel discussions. The goal is create a more permanent Cincinnati Palestine Solidarity Network that can put on more events to educate the community about the realities of the conflict.

For more information please contact Ben Stockwell at Stockwellbm@gmail.com



Friday November 16, 2012. Protesters gather on the corner of MLK and Clifton Ave. to call for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Gaza. Photo: Sameerah Ahmad.

STREETVIBES CROSSWORD PUZZLE #005

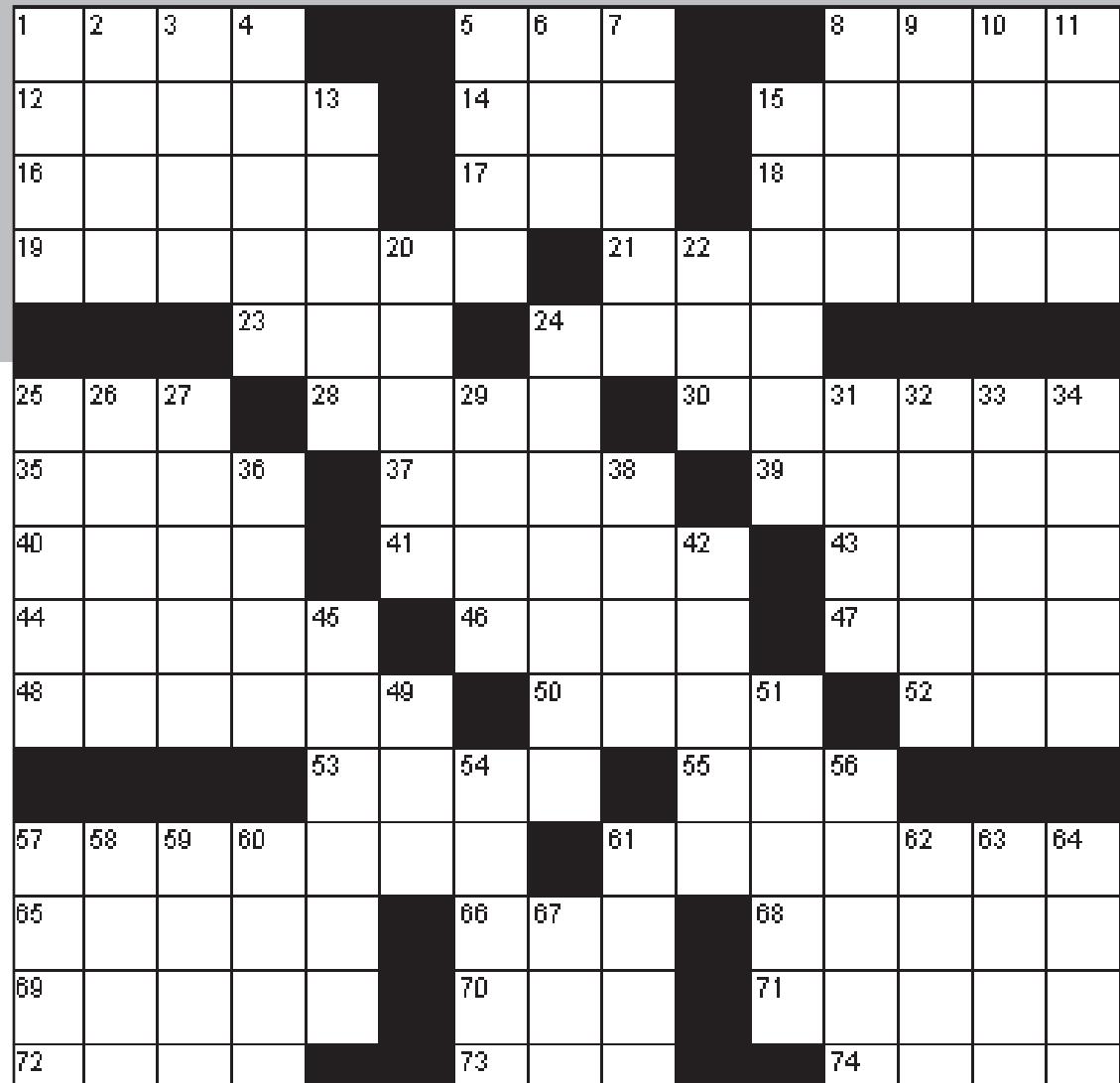
from puzzlechoice.com

Across

- Stringed instrument
- Young child
- Fuss
- Obviate
- Be indebted to
- Fragment
- Water barrier
- Single
- South American animal
- Restless
- Brass instrument
- Japanese currency
- Scorch
- Weep
- Small stream
- Ploy
- Harvest
- Amphibian
- Very slow tempo
- Hawaiian island
- Overhang
- Musical composition for one
- Contempt
- Sate
- Carbon black
- Purlined
- Zeal
- Solfa syllable
- Parch
- Label
- Part of a set of bagpipes
- Female inheritor
- Country life
- Regret
- Visual part of TV

Down

- One of two equal parts
- Assert
- Wander
- Righteousness
- Implement
- Possess
- Fangs
- Movie
- Type of year
- Highest attainable level
- Type of fuel
- Postpone
- Denotes more than one
- Combine
- Music with syncopated melody
- Stringed instrument with keyboard
- Traverse
- Respond
- Cheerful sounding search engine
- Loiter
- Musical setting for a religious ceremony
- Sulk
- Ice hut
- Part of a comb
- Knitting stitch
- Small wooded hollow
- Roofing material
- Cuddle
- Indicating maiden name
- Callow
- Pointer
- Kind of restaurant
- Pack to capacity
- Polynesian dance
- Desiccated
- Part of a church
- Lift with difficulty
- Miniture whirlpool
- Soothsayer
- Painful
- Arab federation, initially



CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION #004



RESOURCES

Shelter: Women and Children

Central Access Point	381-SAFE
Bethany House	557-2873
1841 Fairmount Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45214	
Grace Place Catholic Worker House	681-2365
6037 Cary Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45224	
Salvation Army	762-5660
131 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
YWCA Battered Women's Shelter	872-9259

Shelter: Men

City Gospel Mission	241-5525
1419 Elm Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Justice Watch	241-0490
St. Fran/St. Joe Catholic Work. House	381-4941
1437 Walnut Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Mt. Airy Shelter	661-4620

Shelter: Both

Anthony House (Youth)	961-4080
2728 Glendora Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45209	
Caracole (HIV/AIDS)	761-1480
1821 Summit Road, Cinti, Ohio 45237	
Drop Inn Center	721-0643
217 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Interfaith Hospitality Network	471-1100
Lighthouse Youth Center (Youth)	221-3350
3330 Jefferson, Cinti, Ohio 45220	

Housing:

CMHA	721-4580
Excel Development	632-7149
OTR Community Housing	381-1171
114 W. 14th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tender Mercies	721-8666
27 W. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Tom Geiger House	961-4555
Volunteers of America	381-1954
Anna Louise Inn	421-5211
Cincinnati Union Bethel	768-6907
300 Lytle Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	

Food/Clothing

Lord's Pantry	621-5300
OTR/Walnut Hills Kitchen & Pantry	961-1983
OTR: 1620 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
Walnut Hills: 2631 Gilbert, Cinti, Ohio 45206	
Our Daily Bread	621-6364
1730 Race Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202	
St. Francis Soup Kitchen	535-2719
Churches Active in Northside	591-2246

4230 Hamilton Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45223

FreeStore/FoodBank

112 E. Liberty Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202

Madisonville Ed & Assistance Center

4600 Erie Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45227

Serves area codes: 45226, 45227, 45208, 45209

St. Vincent de Paul

1125 Bank Street, Cinti, Ohio 45214

Treatment: Men

Charlie's 3/4 House

2121 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202

Prospect House

682 Hawthorne Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45205

Starting Over

Treatment: Women

First Step Home

2203 Fulton, Cinti, Ohio 45206

Treatment: Both

AA Hotline**CCAT**

830 Ezzard Charles Dr. Cinti, Ohio 45214

Joseph House (Veterans) 241-2965

1522 Republic Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202

Hamilton County ADAS Board**Recovery Health Access Center****Sober Living****Talbert House**

Advocacy

Catholic Social Action**Community Action Agency****Contact Center**

1227 Vine Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202

Franciscan JPIC 721-4700**Gr. Cinti Coalition for the Homeless** 421-7803

117 E. 12th Street, Cinti, Ohio 45202

Intercommunity Justice & Peace Cr. 579-8547**Legal Aid Society** 241-9400**Ohio Justice & Policy Center****Faces Without Places****Stop AIDS**

Health

Center for Respite Care

3550 Washington Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45229

Crossroad Health Center

5 E. Liberty St. Cinti, Ohio 45202

Health Resource Center

357-4602

Homeless Mobile Health Van

352-2902

McMicken Dental Clinic

352-6363

40 E. McMicken Ave, Cinti, Ohio 45202

Mental Health Access Point

558-8888

Mercy Franciscan at St. John

981-5800

1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202

NAMI of Hamilton County

458-6670

PATH Outreach

977-4489

Other Resources

Center Independent Living Options 241-2600

241-2563

Emmanuel Community Center

1308 Race St. Cinti, Ohio 45202

Peaslee Neighborhood Center

621-5514

214 E. 14th St. Cinti, Ohio 45202

Franciscan Haircuts from the Heart 381-0111

1800 Logan St. Cinti, Ohio 45202

Goodwill industries

771-4800

Healing Connections

751-0600

Mary Magdalen House

721-4811

1223 Main St. Cinti, Ohio 45202

People Working Cooperatively

351-7921

The Caring Place

631-1114

United Way

211

Women Helping Women

977-5541

Off The Streets

421-5211

Hamilton/Middletown

St. Raephael's

863-3184

Salvation Army

863-1445

Serenity House Day Center

422-8555

Open Door Pantry

868-3276

Northern Kentucky

Brighton Center

859-491-8303

799 Ann St. Newport, KY

ECHO/Hosea House

859-261-5857

Fairhaven Resuce Mission 859-491-1027**Homeward Bound Youth** 859-581-1111**Mathews House**

859-261-8009

Homeless & Housing Coalition

859-727-0926

Parish Kitchen

859-581-7745

Pike St. Clinic

859-291-9321

Transitions, Inc

859-491-4435

Welcome House of NKY

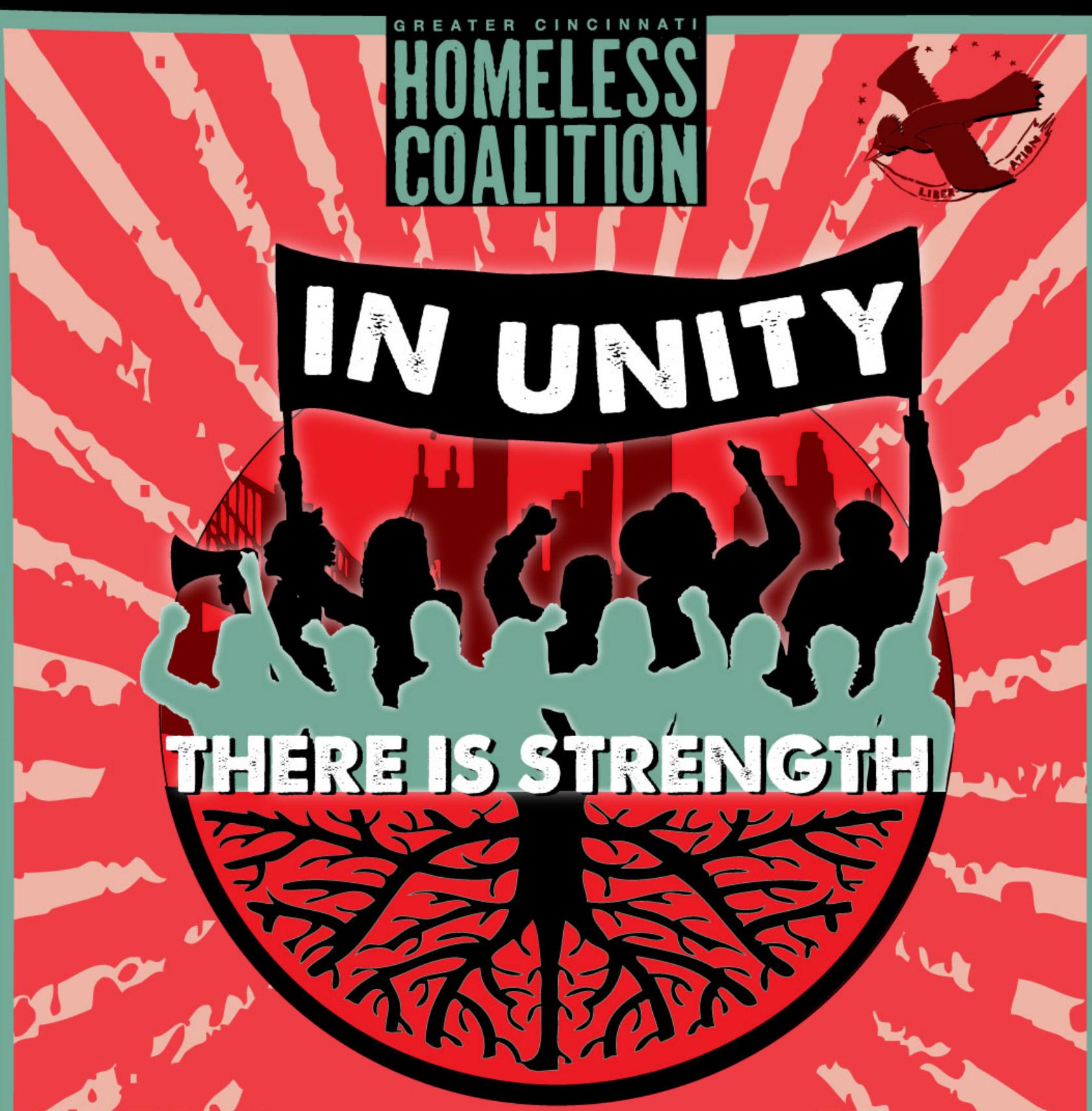
859-431-8717

205 West Pike Street, Covington, KY 41011

Women's Crisis Center

859-491-3335

VA Domiciliary



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